

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of protecting normal, non-transformed cells from ionizing radiation damage, the method comprising:

contacting said normal cells with a dose of a hyperpolarizing agent effective to hyperpolarize the cell membrane and ~~prevent~~ reduce ionizing radiation induced cell killing;
wherein said normal cells are protected from ionizing radiation damage.

2. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said contacting is performed prior to radiation exposure.

3-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The method according to ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 1, wherein said ionizing radiation results from nuclear fission or fusion.

6. (currently amended) The method according to ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 1, wherein said ionizing radiation is X-rays.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said hyperpolarizing agent is a potassium channel opener.

8. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said potassium channel is the KATP channel.

9 – 11 (canceled)